

Amendments to the claims

Claims 1-17 (including the 2nd occurrences of claims 15 and 16): canceled.

18. (new) The method of gathering, processing and displaying data describing patients in a health care facility which comprises, in combination, the steps of:

employing a database server for storing information describing each of said patients, said database server comprising storage facilities for storing the most recently measured numerical values for each of said patient's vital signs including the most recently measured blood pressure, respiration rate and pulse rate for each of said patients, and further comprising a web server program for exchanging information with a web browser program executing on a remotely located bedside data collection computer,

employing said web server to respond to a request received from said web browser to return a web page to said data collection computer which displays one of said most recently measured values for a designated one of said patients, and

employing said web browser to thereafter respond to an input from the operator of said data collection computer by submitting a command to said database server to increment or decrement said one of said most recently measured values as displayed, and

employing said database server to respond to said command by altering said one of said most recently measured values as displayed.

19. (new) The method of gathering, processing and displaying data as set forth in claim 18 wherein said data collection computer is a portable, hand-held computer.

20. (new) The method of gathering, processing and displaying data as set forth in claim 19 wherein said portable hand-held computer includes a touch screen for displaying said web page and wherein said input from the operator is supplied to said web browser using said touch screen.

21. (new) The method of gathering, processing and displaying data as set forth in claim 20 wherein said portable hand-held computer communicates with said web server via a wireless data link.

22. (new) The method of gathering, processing and displaying data as set forth in claim 21 wherein said portable hand-held computer further includes a barcode scanner for accepting bar code information identifying said designated one of said patients.

23. (new) The method of gathering, processing and displaying data as set forth in claim 20 wherein said data collection computer includes a microphone and a voice recognition system for accepting spoken comments from an operator in response to visible or audio prompts produced by said data collection computer to produce said input from the operator.

24. (new) The method of gathering, processing and displaying data as set forth in claim 23 further including the steps of employing said microphone to accept spoken comments from said operator and for transmitting said comments as an audio file to said database server for storage with other information describing said designated one of said patients.

25. (new) The method of gathering, processing and displaying data as set forth in claim 19 wherein said portable hand-held computer wherein said input from the operator is supplied by spoken commands from said operator captured by a microphone included in said hand-held computer.

26. (new) The method of gathering, processing and displaying data as set forth in claim 18 further including the step of employing said web server to transmit selected data stored by said database server regarding said designated patient as one or more web pages in response to a request from said operator.

27. (new) The method of gathering, processing and displaying data as set forth in claim 18 wherein said data collection computer is a personal computer located at the bedside of said designated one of said patients.

28. (new) A method for collecting and displaying data describing the vital signs of each patient in a health care facility comprising, in combination, the steps of:

employing database server for storing numerical data specifying the last measured value for each of a plurality of vital sign quantities including a specific patient's blood pressure, temperature, respiration rate and pulse rate,

providing a health care delivery person with a hand-held portable computer device including a processor for executing a web browser program, a communications interface for establishing a connection to said database server, and a touch screen for displaying web pages transmitted from said database server and for transmitting data to said database server in response to the manipulation of data controls displayed on said web pages by said health care delivery person,

employing a log-in procedure executed by said hand-held computer to obtain the identification of said health care delivery person and submitting said identification to said database server from said hand-held portable computer,

employing said hand-held computer to accept the designation of a particular one of said patients and submitting said designation to said database server from said database server,

employing said hand-held computer to request a specified one of said last measured values for said particular one of said patients,

employing said database server to transmit a web page to said hand-held computer for displaying said specified one of said last measured values, and

accepting a command from said health care delivery person using said web browser to increment or decrement said specified one of said last measured values as stored by said database server.